

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09471 281554Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09471

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR EG IS US
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST STAFF GROUP: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE
RE ISRAELI AIR BASE IN SINAI

1. HAVE JUST SEEN MARCH 26 ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES
WRITTEN BY DREW MIDDLETON AND ENTITLED "U.S. IS CONCERNED
ABOUT FUTURE OF THREE ISRAELI AIR BASES IN SINAI."
ARTICLE STATES USAF HAS BEEN USING ETZION AIR BASE FOR
LONG-RANGE SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS OVER RED SEA, GULF OF
ADEN AND PARTS OF INDIAN OCEAN AND IMPLIES ELEMENTS IN
PENTAGON ANXIOUS RETAIN OPERATIONAL RIGHTS AT ETZION,
WHETHER BASE IS UNDER ISRAELI OR EGYPTIAN CONTROL.

2. STORY WILL AROUSE EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS. I EXPECT TO
BE QUERIED ABOUT THIS ARTICLE AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER
USAF AIRCRAFT HAVE INDEED USED ETZION AIRFIELD. PLEASE
ADVISE WHETHER MIDDLETON'S CLAIM IS CORRECT AND, IF SO,
WHAT SHOULD BE SAID TO EGYPTIANS ABOUT U.S. ATTITUDE
TOWARD ISRAELI DESIRE TO RETAIN THAT AIRFIELD. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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